

TWO MONTHS OF SICKNESS ENDS IN THE DEATH OF SYLVESTER C. GOULD

Was One of the Oldest of the Active Printers and Journalists of New Hampshire—Prominent in Masonry and Odd Fellowship—One of Manchester's Best Known Men.

"Turn on the lights" were the last audible words spoken by Sylvester C. Gould as his mentality stood upon the threshold which marks the passing from mortality to immortality. The words were spoken to a close friend who called at the Gould home, 543 Union street, to continue a friendship which had remained unbroken throughout a period of many years. Mr. Gould died about 6 o'clock, and in the passing out of his life there entered into rest a man of persistent and tireless industry, one who had been active in many lines of endeavor, whose work had been performed along many lines, and who had climbed to heights of honor and recognition in historical associations, in fields of scientific research and in the great fraternities of Masonry and Odd Fellowship.

Mr. Gould's health began to fail during the past winter, and two months ago he entered the Sacred Heart hospital and underwent an operation, which disclosed that he was suffering from tuberculosis of the bowels. The operation afforded but temporary relief, and it was known that he could not recover. On the day preceding the Fourth of July he was removed to his home, and there he remained, at times with his intellect clear, until the change came last night. The surviving relatives are his wife, one daughter, Miss Annie L. Gould, a brother, Rodney W. Gould of East Weare, a nephew, Harry B. Gould of Hartford, Conn., and a niece, Miss Ada W. Gould of Lakeport.

Sylvester Clark Gould was a native of Weare, where he was born March 1, 1840. From 1854 to 1858 he was employed as general clerk in a dry goods and grocery store, beginning at the age of 14 years. In 1859 and 1860 he attended school at the Boscawen academy, of which Jonathan Tenney was principal. He entered the office of the Daily and Weekly American in Manchester, Feb. 24, 1862, where he learned the printer's trade.

These journals were published and edited by Simeon D. Farnsworth, who, on being appointed paymaster in the army in 1863, leased the newspaper establishment April 17, 1863, to Henry A. Gage, James O. Adams and Orren C. Moore, which was run under the firm name of Gage, Moore & Co. On Aug. 13, 1863, Mr. Gould purchased the interest of O. C. Moore in the lease, Mr. Moore still acting as editor, Henry A. Gage as publisher, James O. Adams as reporter and Mr. Gould as clerk and telegraph editor.

On Dec. 24, 1863, S. D. Farnsworth, returning on a furlough to Manchester, bought off the lessees and sold the newspaper establishment to the late Col. John B. Clarke, and the papers were published as The MIRROR AND AMERICAN. From this time to March 16, 1864, Mr. Gould settled up the affairs of the American office as compositor, job printer and temporarily as reporter, until Dec. 24, 1868.

On Jan. 1, 1869, John W. Moore, Samuel C. Merrill, Charles W. Clough and Mr. Gould associated themselves together under the firm name of John W. Moore & Co., and began the publication of the Daily News. In February, 1869, Mr. Gould disposed of his interests to J. W. Moore and entered The Daily and Weekly Union office as compositor, and continued until July 5, 1869, when he again entered the Mirror office as job printer, and continued until May 1, 1871.

Mr. Gould then entered the service of the Concord railroad in 1871, and in 1874 became depot master at the passenger station, under Maj. Josiah Stevens, who was station agent, and he continued in that capacity until early in the 90s.

In July 1882, Mr. Gould and his brother, Leroy M. Gould, began the publication of a monthly magazine entitled Notes and Queries, the former being editor. The publication had existed until quite recently, when Mr. Gould's illness compelled him to abandon the work. Notes and Queries forced its way to the front as one of the standard publications devoted to abstruse and scientific subjects.

Mr. Gould had been identified with the press of his city and state for nearly half a century, either as reporter, editor, printer or correspondent. He had written for several New York and Pennsylvania papers—the Mathematical Magazine of Erie, Pa., the Educational Notes and Queries of Salem, O., and the Liberal Freemasons of Boston, Mass. He had contributed to the press of Manchester on various subjects, together with some poetical effusions, under the pseudonym of "Godfrey."

He published several addresses, delivered before fraternal societies, also a bibliography of Manchester literature, containing upwards of 2000 publications. He had one of the largest collections of state literature in the state, containing many rare and choice works. His collection of copies of the Aeneid represented much research, and it is estimated that it was the best single collection in New England, if not in the country. Mr. Gould had also gathered many copies, old publications, of the Bible. In fact, he was an ideal book collector, a passion which he followed as long as he was able to get about.

Mr. Gould once compiled a list of New Hampshire election sermons from 1784 to 1861, which paper was incorporated in the collection issued by the Manchester Historic association, of which Mr. Gould for many years was a member of the publication committee. Mr. Gould also submitted an interesting story of the origin of the song "In the Sweet By and By," which was also incorporated in the annals of the Historic association.

In 1898 Mr. Gould compiled a bibliography on Maj. Gen. John Stark, being the notes and brief descriptions of seventy-five titles of publications having to do with the life of General Stark. This bibliography was also published under the auspices of the Manchester Historic association.

In January, 1883, Mr. Gould was chosen corresponding secretary of the New Hampshire Press association, an office which he held for very many years.

Mr. Gould was a 32d degree Mason and a member of the Boston consistory and a member of the Brotherhood of Rosierians of Boston. He was a member of Lafayette lodge, Mount Horeb chapter, Adoniram council and of Trinity Commandery, Knights Templar, of this city. He was an Odd Fellow and was a member of Hillsborough lodge of the order, in which he was a past grand patriarch and a past grand representative. For

many years he was secretary of the Veteran Odd Fellows' association, and was at one time the president of that body. He was secretary for many years of the Odd Fellows' Relief association and held membership in Arbutus lodge of Rebekahs.

Besides being a member of the New Hampshire Press association he belonged to the Manchester Historic association and the First Unitarian society.

Mr. Gould was a man of unusual intellectuality and wide information. He was a man who in his personal relations with his fellows might at times be termed odd or peculiar, but to those who knew him best he was a source of entertainment, inspiration and agreeable companionship. He possessed many superior attainments, and it is doubtful if there was another man in the state who was as well informed in the field of literature, notably the classics. He put all of his great energy into his favorite publication, Notes and Queries, and lived a reserved life during the later years of his life to this end. In a corner room of the Mirror building he had his workshop, and there many of the old-timers of the city were wont to go and enjoy his companionship. He was ever a friend of the newspaper man, as he was of their calling. Whenever it was necessary to make a research into local history, or to settle some doubtful point which may have arisen, S. C. Gould was the first person sought to furnish the information desired. He was a rare man, and Manchester never had one like him. With his death it is probable that his publication dies also, as there seems to be no one to fill his unique place in the publication of such a magazine.

Mr. Gould was a member of the publication committee who produced the history of Weare, one of the finest town histories in New Hampshire, and he had much to do with its compilation.